



Extended Benefits (EB) Program *Rights & Responsibilities*

Purpose of the Michigan Extended Benefits Program

The purpose of the Extended Benefits (EB) program is to pay unemployment benefits during periods of high unemployment to workers, including federal civilian employees and ex-military personnel, who exhausted their basic entitlement to regular state and federal unemployment benefits.

The cost of Extended Benefits paid from 1-25-09 through 2-21-09 will be shared 50/50 by the federal government and Michigan employers. Effective 2-22-09, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 established that the federal government will pay 100% of the cost of EB. The exceptions are governmental entities, Indian Tribes and Tribal Units that are charged 100% of all extended benefits.

Some Questions and Answers About the Michigan Extended Benefits Program

1. *Who is entitled to Extended Benefits?*

You may be entitled to EB if you:

- Are unemployed or underemployed,
- Had established eligibility for regular state or federal unemployment benefits, have exhausted those benefits and exhausted all entitlement to Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC).
- Do not have available regular benefits under the unemployment compensation laws of any state, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Canada, the District of Columbia, or the federal government of the United States.
- Meet the eligibility requirements of the law and are not disqualified.

Not everyone is entitled to Extended Benefits. For example, an individual who was disqualified on their regular unemployment claim for one of the following reasons will not be eligible for Extended Benefits: refusal of work, imprisonment, labor dispute, assault and battery, theft, willful destruction, failure to notify a temporary help firm, or illegal drugs.

2. *What does it mean to have "exhausted" my benefits?*

For purposes of the Michigan EB program, you have exhausted your rights to regular unemployment benefits and EUC when: a) you have received all the benefits to which you were entitled in a benefit year under a regular state or federal program; **OR** b) your benefit year has expired before you have drawn all your benefits and no new benefit year can be established.

3. What is an Extended Benefit period?

Until recently, Extended Benefits (EB) provided up to 13 weeks of additional Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits to workers who exhausted their regular benefits (maximum 26 weeks). EB is paid only when a state's unemployment rate rises to a level sufficient to "trigger" the program and start benefit extensions. There are two ways EB triggers on, the Insured Unemployment Rate (IUR) and the Total Unemployment Rate (TUR).

IUR – Michigan triggered on with week beginning January 4, 2009. January 25, 2009 is the first week payable on EB. Under the IUR, claimants receive a maximum of 50% of their regular unemployment benefit entitlement.

TUR – The Michigan Employment Security Act was amended effective April 13, 2009, to include the Total Unemployment Rate (TUR) triggering factor. If the state exceeds the 6.5% TUR, unemployed workers are entitled to receive up to 13 weeks of EB. If the state exceeds 8.0% unemployment, unemployed workers are entitled to receive 80% of their regular state unemployment insurance benefits for up to 20 weeks of EB.

Michigan has met the TUR of 8.0%, which entitles claimants to receive up to 80% of their unemployment insurance benefits for a maximum of 20 weeks of benefits.

4. How much will I receive under this program and for how long?

When an EB period is in effect and you have exhausted your **regular** benefits, you may be eligible to receive EB amounting to 80% of your regular state benefit entitlement for a maximum of 20 weeks.

Example 1: If your Michigan determination was for \$2,600 (\$100 a week for 26 weeks), your EB could be \$2,000 (\$100 a week for 20 weeks).

Example 2: If your Michigan determination was for \$4,000 (\$200 a week for 20 weeks), your EB will be \$3,200 (\$200 a week for 16 weeks).

Regardless of the number of weeks you are entitled to, you **cannot** be paid EB **after** an EB period ends.

5. What other requirements must I meet to be eligible for Extended Benefits?

Your eligibility for EB will be determined in the same manner as were your rights to regular state or federal benefits. You must be unemployed or underemployed, and be able to work and available for work.

You must have a verified registration for work (resume) on file with the Michigan Works! Agency (MWA) BEFORE reporting using MARVIN to claim your first week of EB. The MWA will notify the UIA that you have registered for work. For MWA locations, call 1-800-285-WORK(9675).

You must also certify for benefit entitlement on your appointment day and time using MARVIN, either by telephone at 1-866-638-3993, or online at <http://www.michigan.gov/uia>, and select the link, "MARVIN Online" under "UIA Online Services for Unemployed Workers." You must be diligently seeking work during each week for which you are claiming EB. See "Special EB Work Search Requirements" below.

Special EB Work Search Requirement, Including Form UIA 1583

An unemployed worker eligible for EB must make a more diligent search for work than would normally be required if you were receiving regular unemployment benefits. You must make a systematic and sustained effort to obtain work during each week you are claiming Extended Benefits. Federal guidelines define a systematic and sustained search for work, as a planned, methodical search for work conducted throughout each week claimed for EB (or as the criteria set forth by the state workforce agency for the various labor markets within the state). You must seek work with at least 3 employers in each week you are claiming benefits. You must report to the UIA your work search efforts for each week you claim Extended Benefits.

If you are claiming Extended Benefits by **calling MARVIN** at 1-866-638-3993: You must complete Form UIA 1583, listing on this form the places where you looked for work each week and give details and results of each work search contact. The completed, signed, and dated form must be mailed or faxed to the UIA **BEFORE** you contact MARVIN for the weeks involved in the work search.

If you are claiming Extended Benefits by using **MARVIN Online** at <http://www.michigan.gov/uia>: You must submit your work search efforts on a different link on UIA's web site for the two-week period you are claiming EB. Access the UIA web site and click on the link, "UIA Online Services for Unemployed Workers" and follow the instructions. You must give details and results of each work search contact for the two-week period you are claiming. This must be done at the same time you certify (claim benefits) using MARVIN Online.

If you've been approved by the UIA to use paper certification forms (sent in by mail or fax): You must complete Form UIA 1583. You are required to list on this form the places where you looked for work and give details and results of each work search contact. The completed, signed, and dated Form UIA 1583 must be returned with your certification form.

If you are in training approved by a Michigan Works Agency! Service Center: You should continue to certify by mail and attach your training attendance form. You **do not** need to complete Form UIA 1583 for any week that you are attending approved training.

SUITABLE WORK: The law provides that after filing your claim for EB, you must apply for and accept any suitable work as defined below:

Under the requirements of federal law relating to the EB Program, suitable work is any work you are capable of doing. If you refuse any job within your capability, you will be disqualified if:

- a) The gross weekly pay offered is more than your EB weekly benefit rate plus any SUB pay you receive from your former employer; and
- b) The offered pay is at least the federal minimum wage; and
- c) The offer is either in writing or the job is listed by the employer with Michigan Works!

6. Under what circumstances would I be disqualified for Extended Benefits?

You are subject to the same disqualifications under the EB program as under Michigan's regular benefits program. In addition, the law provides that you must be disqualified from EB if you do not meet the seeking work requirements, or if you fail to apply for, interview, or accept, suitable work. If disqualified, the only way you can again become entitled to EB is to get a job, work for at least 4 weeks and earn at least 4 times your EB weekly benefit amount. If you did not seek work during a week, you should elect not to claim EB for that week. By claiming that week, you will be disqualified for further benefits until you work for 4 weeks and earn at least 4 times your EB weekly benefit amount.

7. When will Extended Benefits start?

Extended Benefit payments may be made only during an EB period and can be made for any weeks that begin prior to the ending date of an EB period. The first payable week for EB is 1/25/2009.

8. When will an Extended Benefit period end?

The EB period will end whenever the state Insured Unemployment Rate (IUR) drops below the EB trigger levels **OR** the Total Unemployment Rate (TUR) drops below 6.5% in Michigan (see Item 3). However, once an EB period begins, it will continue for at least 13 consecutive weeks. A new EB period cannot begin with a state trigger until the 14th week after the end of a prior EB period.

9. What will happen to my Extended Benefits if new regular state or federal benefit rights become available to me?

Any time you become eligible for regular state or federal benefits, you must file a new claim for regular benefits and your eligibility for EB will end. If an EB period is in effect when you exhaust regular benefits, you may again qualify for EB based on a new claim.

10. How do federal Extended Unemployment Compensation (EUC) benefits affect Extended Benefits?

You must exhaust all EUC benefit entitlement before you may be eligible for Extended Benefits.

11. How do I apply for Extended Benefits?

A notice regarding possible eligibility for EB is automatically mailed to unemployed workers who may meet the requirements for qualifying for EB (outlined in #1 of this handout). If you receive such notice, and are unemployed or underemployed at this time, you may qualify for EB. To qualify, you must apply for benefits on the UIA's web site, <http://www.michigan.gov/uia>, Monday 7:00 A.M. THROUGH Saturday 7:00 P.M. Eastern Time. Click on the "File a EUC or EB Extension" link, which is on the home page. If you are unable to apply for EB online, call us at 1-866-500-0017, and choose option #3. Filing a claim by telephone is available from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM*, Monday through Wednesday, Eastern Time, according to your social security number at the phone number above. If you missed your appointment day and time, you can file by telephone at 1-866-500-0017 any time between 8:00 A.M. and 4:30 P.M.* on Thursday or Friday of that same week.

IMPORTANT: Interstate EB claims against Michigan and other states may be filed in the same manner as regular interstate claims. However, although Michigan may have an EB period in effect, some states may not. The law provides that any unemployed worker who files a new, additional, or continued interstate claim for EB in another state that is not in an EB period must be limited to a maximum payment of only two weeks.

12. Will I have the right of appeal under the Extended Benefit program?

Yes. You have the same appeal rights under the EB program as under the regular benefit program.

13. Does the law provide any penalties?

Yes, under 18 U.S.C. Section 1001, knowingly and willfully concealing a material fact by any trick, scheme, or device or knowingly making a false statement in connection with this claim is a federal offense, punishable by a fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment for not more than five years, or both. You will be required to pay back any benefits improperly received plus any applicable penalties. If, by mistake, you gave incorrect information when you filed your claim, notify us as soon as you realize it, in order to avoid penalties.

The information in this pamphlet is meant to assist informing you of your rights to Extended Benefits. It does not have the force of law or rule. If you have any additional questions, call our toll-free number at 1-866-500-0017 (TTY callers use 1-866-366-0004) Monday through Friday between 8:00 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. (Eastern Time).

***Note: The 4:30 P.M. times have been extended on a temporary basis until 6:00 P.M.**



DELEG is an equal opportunity employer/program.



**UNEMPLOYMENT
INSURANCE
AGENCY**

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State of Michigan

STANLEY "SKIP" PRUSS, Director
Department of Energy, Labor &
Economic Growth

SUSAN R. CORBIN
Deputy Director
Department of Energy, Labor &
Economic Growth

STEPHEN M. GESKEY, Director
Unemployment Insurance Agency

Extended Benefits in Michigan

During periods of high unemployment in a state, Extended Benefits (EB) may become available to workers who have exhausted their regular state unemployment insurance (UI) benefits as well as most other state and federal unemployment insurance benefits.

Benefits payable through EB

The basic EB program provides half the number of weeks that a person received in regular UI benefits to a maximum of 13 weeks. However, on April 13, 2009, Governor Jennifer Granholm signed legislation increasing the maximum entitlement to **20 weeks** (80% of what the individual received in state benefits). The program's weekly benefit amount is the same as the individual received for regular state unemployment insurance.

What triggers EB?

Whether EB triggers on or not is determined by a calculation called the **insured unemployment rate** (IUR). The IUR is *not* the same as the **total unemployment rate** (TUR), which reports the total number of unemployed workers in the state's work force. The IUR is a 13-week moving average of UI continued weeks claimed divided by insured employment. In order for EB to trigger "on," the state's IUR must be greater than or equal to 5.0%, and the current IUR must be 20% higher than the average rate for the same period in both of the last two years.

Once the state triggers "on," the program remains in effect for at least 13 weeks and potentially eligible unemployed workers are notified that they may be entitled to EB.

Michigan now meets the EB trigger level

During the week of January 10, 2009, Michigan's IUR surpassed 5.0 % and was 42% higher than same period for the prior two years. The week ending January 31, 2009, was the first week for which EB was payable.

The state's UI law was amended on April 13, 2009, to include the total unemployment rate (TUR) triggering factor. If the state exceeds the 6.5% TUR and is 10% higher than the average rate for the same period in either of the last two years, benefit claimants are entitled to up to 13 weeks of EB. However, if the state TUR exceeds 8.0% and is 10% higher than the average rate for the same period in either of the last two years, claimants are entitled to receive 80% of their regular state UI benefits or up to 20 weeks of EB. Michigan's TUR has exceeded 8.0% since EB triggered on in January 2009.

To be eligible for EB, workers must be unemployed or underemployed and must have exhausted their federal Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) on or after on or after January 25, 2009. However, for those who exhausted their EUC entitlement before January 25, they must have a benefit year ending on or after January 31, 2009.

Normally, EB costs are shared 50/50 between the federal government and the state. The state's share comes from its UI trust fund and is then charged on a prorated basis back to the employer(s). However, the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act calls for 100% of EB to be federally funded. Government employers and Indian Tribes and Tribal units, however, will still be charged 100 percent for EB.

Work Search is required

Individuals receiving EB must fulfill a stringent work search requirement in order to receive benefits and must list the employers contacted each week. As evidence of their work search, workers must supply the names of employers they have contacted over the prior two weeks, the name of the individual they contacted at each business, their method of contact, type of work they sought, and the results of their contact.

DELEG is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids, services and other reasonable accommodations are available upon request to individuals with disabilities



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